

An Improved Approach to Agriculture and Food Security: Haiti

Eighty percent of the population of Haiti lives in extreme poverty. Haiti's agricultural sector employs over two thirds of the country's workforce but accounts for only 25 percent of its GDP. Chronic malnutrition affects 24 percent of children under five years of age and acute malnutrition affects 9 percent of children under five.

Doing Business Differently in Development

The Government of Haiti (GOH) is demonstrating strong leadership to overcoming these challenges through a significant commitment of its own resources for agriculture and food security, and its effective engagement of civil society and private sector partners. In support of the GOH, donor coordination has significantly improved through candid biweekly discussions on where their resources will be placed and what gaps exist. Through consultation with the donor community, Haiti's Country Investment Plan for Agriculture, called the National Agriculture Investment Plan (NAIP), has evolved from a laundry list of dozens of projects to a prioritized and focused strategy. Consultation with the private sector and civil society has led to important new components of the NAIP, including local purchases for humanitarian aid, a focus on the ultra-poor, and expectations for value chain investments of at least \$100 million from the private sector.

Support for Country-Level Planning and Review

The NAIP was developed and strengthened through strategy sessions and analyses conducted throughout 2009 with development partners including the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank and the U.S. The NAIP underwent a major technical review on the margins of a pre-donors conference in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on March 16 and 17, 2010, where development partners agreed to support a short and long-term agriculture strategy developed by the Government of Haiti organized around three axes: 1) developing rural areas/infrastructure, including watersheds; 2) production and developing competitive value chains; and 3) strengthening agricultural services and institutions. Development partners have stressed the importance of prioritizing several cross-cutting issues, specifically gender, nutrition, environment, and the ultra-poor, while strengthening inter-ministerial and donor coordination. Throughout April and May, the GOH consulted extensively with donors, civil society and the private sector, making substantial revisions to the NAIP. These efforts culminated in a high-level stakeholder meeting on June 2 in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, where stakeholders and other development partners formally endorsed the investment plan.

Mobilizing Resources to Support Country Plans

The entire NAIP calls for \$790 million and the GOH has committed to 14 percent of that total with equivalent support from the private sector, leaving the initial financing gap at \$578 million. The U.S. committed \$25.9 million to support the NAIP in 2010 and has requested \$76 million for agriculture and \$10 million for nutrition in 2011. The U.S. also pledged a minimum of \$100 million after that time. Accounting for these commitments, the NAIP is 55% resourced. In Punta Cana, a group of donors including Brazil, Canada, Dominican Republic, France, Spain, FAO, Inter-American Development Bank, World Bank, International Fund for Agriculture and Development and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Development, Haitian civil society, and other international non-government organizations agreed to align their resources with the three strategic axes of the NAIP and provide specific financial commitments, ideally by

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September 1. Complementing these actions, the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program has awarded Haiti \$35 million to raise the productivity of smallholder farmers through improved access to agricultural inputs, technology, and supply chains.